



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Law

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 5, 2024

Re: Expressing Support for the LGBTQ Community and Declaring the City of Columbia as a Safe Haven for Free Speech and Expression.

Executive Summary

At the request of City Council, an ordinance has been prepared expressing support for the LGBTQ community, providing safeguards for LGBTQ individuals, families and establishments, and declaring the city as a safe haven for free speech and expression for all.

Discussion

At the December 18, 2023 Council meeting a request was made for an ordinance to be drafted which would declare the City of Columbia as a safe haven for all while also establishing a policy framework to ensure LGBTQ individuals, families and establishments continue to feel safe within the community. Accordingly, an ordinance has been prepared for consideration. The ordinance generally utilizes the core language provided by the individuals making the public comment; however, it reorganizes the safeguards which are enacted and eliminates the introductory "whereas" clauses that are critical of the actions of others while retaining those clauses that provide the statistical and factual background for the legislative action.

This item was first brought forward during public comment on November 20, 2023 and referred to the Human Rights Commission. The Human Rights Commission submitted its report to Council on December 18, 2023 expressing support for passage of an ordinance.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Not applicable

Long-Term Impact: Not applicable

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Inclusive Community, Secondary Impact: Organizational Excellence, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable



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Legislative History

Date	Action
11/20/2023	SPC67-23 - Trent Rash and David Hall - Support of the City of Columbia becoming a designated sanctuary city for the LGBTQ+ community.
12/18/2023	REP77-23 - Correspondence from the Human Rights Commission regarding LGBTQ+ Sanctuary City legislation.

Suggested Council Action

None.